

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2006. Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-7 and 15-21 are allowed. Claims 8-10 are rejected. Claims 11-14 are objected to. Claim 8 has been amended. Claim 11 has been cancelled. Claim 22 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-22 remain pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections 35 USC 102

The Examiner states,

1. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US 6,356,235).

In regards to Claim 8, Lee discloses of a method comprising providing portions of a transmitter signal path in Fig 6 and 10 as parallel segments (21A-C, DRIVER A-C) and independently enabling each of the parallel segments (via EN_AP, EN_AN, EN_BP, EN_BN, EN_CP, EN_CN respectively) to control output signal amplitude (Column 5 Lines 24-32). (Fig 6, 10, Column 4 Lines 25-67 and Column 5 Lines 1-32).

In regards to Claim 9, Lee discloses of the having the parallel segments (21A-C, DRIVER A-C) being comprised of a prebuffer (predrivers 21A-C respectively) and an output stage (DRIVER A-C respectively). (Fig 6, 10, Column 4 Lines 25-67 and Column 5 Lines 1-32)

In regards to Claim 10, Lee discloses of the step of independently enabling each of the parallel segments (21A-C, DRIVER A-C) further comprises utilizing a plurality of input signals (EN_AP, EN_AN, EN_BP, EN-BN, EN_CP, EN_CN) for the parallel segments (21A-C, DRIVER A-C) that selectively enable the parallel segments (21A-C, DRIVER A-C) in order to balance desired amplitude and pre-emphasis needs in the transmitter signal path (Column 5 Lines 24-32). (Fig 6, 10, Column 4 Lines 25-67 and Column 5 Lines 1-32)

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states,

2. Claims 1-7 and 15-21 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regards to Claim 1, the prior art does not directly disclose of a serial link transmitter circuit with independently enabled parallel segments comprised of prebuffers and output stages that achieve multiple power levels of pre-emphasis while maintaining substantially constant propagation delay, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so. Claims 2-7 are also allowed as being dependent on the allowable claim 1.

In regards to Claim 15, the prior art does not directly disclose of a system with a differential input signal and a plurality of independently enabled parallel segments comprised of prebuffers and output stages that achieve multiple power levels of pre-emphasis while maintaining substantially constant propagation delay in the signal path of the differential signal, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so. Claims 16-21 are allowed as being dependent on the allowable claim 15.

Applicant appreciates Examiner's allowance of claims 1-7 and 15-21.

3. Claim 11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regards to Claim 11, the prior art does not directly disclose of the circuit of claim 8 further comprising undelayed and delayed segments to balance current steering with pre-emphasis levels in the transmitter signal path, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so.

In regards to Claim 12, the prior art does not directly disclose of the circuit of claim 9 providing a bypass path in the prebuffer stage circuitry to implement a controllable idle state in the segments, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so.

In regards to Claim 13, the prior art does not directly disclose of the circuit of claim 9 further comprising tail current and resistive load devices in the prebuffer circuitry, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so.

In regards to claim 14, the prior art does not directly disclose of the circuit of claim 8 further comprising a control element to allow inversion of a last delayed bit to achieve a polarity change of the pre-emphasis signal, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so.

Applicant appreciates Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 1-14. Applicant has amended claim 8 to include the limitation of claim 11. Claim 22 is claim 14 rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 8 and 22 are now in allowable form. Furthermore, claims 9, 10 and 12-14 are allowable since they depend from an allowable base claim.

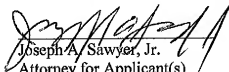
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims 1-22 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and objections to the claims, as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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